

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 564

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bruce Behringer on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Behringer is one such person, who has served with probity as the deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) since 2011 and recently embarked upon a well-earned retirement, in which he will continue to serve as advisory emeritus; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career, Bruce Behringer has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Behringer received a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he began his estimable tenure in public service in Pennsylvania in 1972 as a community development specialist and later as director of the Minority Health Education Delivery System Program; and

WHEREAS, he also worked as a community development director for the Town of Aurora and administrator of Tri-County Health Services, Inc., in Aurora, North Carolina, and executive director of Virginia Primary Care Association, Inc., in Richmond, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Behringer came to East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in 1992 and served as the executive director and assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine; assistant vice president and executive director; graduate faculty member of the

Department of Public Health; and research associate professor and associate vice president of the Department of Internal Medicine; and

WHEREAS, as deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health, Bruce Behringer has been fully committed to addressing such important issues as reducing tobacco use among youth and adults through the expansion of tobacco-free spaces and tobacco cessation resources; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he led efforts to engage grantees from diverse communities and public health officials to work together; built strong working relationships with academic institutions and established a process for attracting and guiding students interested in public health to internships; initiated a program to strengthen the core public health competencies of TDH personnel; established the Office of Performance Management; and worked to align the efforts of federal agencies and state agencies on certain issues; and

WHEREAS, an active and dynamic member of his profession, Bruce Behringer is a member of the National Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee; board member of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health and Tennessee Rural Health Recruitment and Retention Center; and member of the ETSU College of Pharmacy Steering Committee, Puertas Abiertas, and Appalachian Regional Commission Health Policy Council; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his public service, he is a published author, grant writer, and educator; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, this devoted professional was recognized by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence with the 2016 Champion of Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is perhaps proudest of the love he shares with his wife, Marilyn, who has patiently supported him throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Behringer exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Bruce Behringer has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Bruce Behringer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, as we pay tribute to his exemplary tenure as deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.